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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 5, 1953

SUBJECT: The Guatemalan Situation

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Thomas C. Mann, Acting Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs
Mr. Robert La Follette, Attorney for United Fruit Company
Mr. Raymond G. Leddy, Officer in Charge, Central America and Panama Affairs
Mr. R. R. Rubottom, Jr., Director, Office of Middle American Affairs

CONFERENCE:

Copies to: ARA - Mr. Mann (2)
MID - Mr. Leddy
Amembassy, Guatemala

1-1403

Mr. Mann arranged for Mr. La Follette to call at his office in order that the latter might get better acquainted with Messrs. Leddy and Rubottom.

After a general discussion the subject turned to Guatemala. Mr. Mann referred to the forthcoming termination of the contracts for U.S. ground and air missions in Guatemala and stated that the Department was inclined to approve their renewal, in event same was requested by the Guatemalan Government. He said that, as far as is now known, this action would be in the interest of the U.S. He declared that this represented no change in the U.S. policy toward Guatemala with respect to the withholding of aid and other favors which the latter seeks, eg., Inter-American Highway funds.

Mr. LaFollette expressed agreement with the idea of renewing the U.S. ground and air mission contracts with the Guatemalan Government. He then expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Guatemala with specific reference to the January elections and the administration of the agrarian reform law. He emphasized that he hoped other governments in this hemisphere would take note of the communist influence on the Guatemalan Government and join in some concerted action against it.

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ARA:MID:RRRubottom, Jr.:dc

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